

The Good Shepherd Church
Park Road Loughborough
October Focus 2015

Please see the calendar for Services. Meetings and Other Events.

What is the heart of our faith?

The best place to start looking for an answer is to look at God. Christianity is, at heart, about relationships. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit live in deep relationship with each other - so deep that we cannot really understand it, only get glimpses of it.

Why did Jesus become a human and live, die, be resurrected and ascend into heaven? Because the Godhead wanted us to have a restored relationship with God. Sin was the barrier and Jesus removed it for us by His death.

Now look at how Jesus lived on earth. He lived in unbroken relationship with His Father - except on the Cross. Jesus lived in close relationship with His 12 disciples - for three years they were hardly ever apart! The 'religious' people despised numerous types of people: tax collectors, the diseased, prostitutes, 'sinners' generally. Who did Jesus specifically spend time with? Yes, these types of people.

The devout Jew was not too keen on relating to women; they were definitely 'second-class'. But Jesus spent significant time with them, sometimes to the amazement of His disciples (eg John 4).

I do not think it an exaggeration to say that Jesus spent His life "obediently living His selfless life of love towards every and all others", as Michael Jenkins puts it.

What has that to do with us? We are probably very comfortable (and grateful for) the truth that Jesus died that we might have a relationship with God. But do we also feel comfortable with the idea that we are also called to live in relationship with each other - as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit live in relationship with each other?

If I think that it is enough to come along to church for an hour on a Sunday then I am kidding myself! This was going through my mind recently - the day of the church picnic. I felt as if God was saying 'Here's an opportunity to be in relationship with others in the Body of Christ'. 'But I'm tired; who will be there; I don't want to play games ...' But I felt I really did need to go, so I went. What happened? Amongst other things I had conversations with Gail, Mavis, and Maurice and learnt more about all of them. Mavis and I took a stroll through the 'arboretum' at the Beacon and we both enjoyed it enormously.

Is that it? Have I done my bit now? No, I don't believe that for one minute, but at least it is a small step forward in living a bit more 'in relationship' with fellow pilgrims at the Good Shepherd.

Bryan Johnston

Harvest Services Thank you must go to John Cheetham who organised the Harvest Service last month, and the singing group who helped lead the worship. It was a good opportunity to meet again Martina and Peter Morriss and hear of their Christian missionary work in Paris. Thank you to all who helped decorate the Church, providing produce and distributing it around the Parish.

Christmas Market. This will take place on November 28th, more details next month. Please look out any items that could go onto the stalls gifts, produce, cakes good quality games and toys and also consider if you could help us on the day.

Contacts For Further Information

www.goodshepherdloughborough.org.uk

For Contacts please phone.
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October 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207 1	10am Toddler Club 2	3
8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 4 8.45am Parish Breakfast 10am Holy Communion Sunday Club	6pm Monday Club 5	9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 6 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	9.30am Holy Communion 7 2.45pm Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207 8	10am Toddler Club 9	10
8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 11 10am Morning Worship 6pm Informal Prayer Meeting	6pm Monday Club 12	9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 13 7.30pm PCC Meeting 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	9.30am Holy Communion 14 2.45 Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207 15	10am Toddler Club 16	17
8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 18 10am Holy Communion Sunday Club	No Monday Club 19	9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 20 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	9.30am Holy Communion 21 NO Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207 22	NO Toddler Club 23	24 Don't forget to put your clocks back 1 hour
8am Holy Communion Traditional Prayer Book 25 10am Morning Worship	6pm Monday Club 26	9.15am Informal Prayer Meeting 27 8pm House Group 8 Freesia Close.	9.30am Holy Communion 28 2.45pm Wednesday Friendly 7.30pm Stage Group	2pm Bible Fellowship For this month's meeting location please contact Jackie Rotter on 212207 29	10am Toddler Club 30	31

Interregnum update. We are pleased to report that at a recent meeting with the Area Dean and the PCC, the Parish Profile was approved. The vacancy for our Vicar has now been advertised and interview dates have been set for the end of November. Let us all continue to pray that the advert will call someone to come to lead us.

Sponsored walk. The sponsored walk that took place in aid of the True Vine Trust raised over £500, thank you to all who sponsored the walkers. This money will go to Tanzania to further assist the development of the school.

Irene Dove. Irene is now back at home following the bad fall that she had and welcomes visitors. She is making steady progress and thanks everyone for their love and Prayers during the difficult times she faces, she also thanks the Church for the harvest gift that was given to her.